

## CLAIMS

1. An ink cartridge installed in an inkjet printing apparatus printable by use of an inkjet head, and connectable  
5 to an ink supply route of the inkjet head, comprising:

an engage reference portion serving as a reference position in installing the ink cartridge in the inkjet printing apparatus; and

a joint section positioned in the proximity of a side  
10 surface of the ink cartridge and connectable to the ink supply route,

wherein the distance between the joint section and the engage reference portion is shorter than that between the side surface and the engage reference portion.

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2. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink cartridge is virtually rectangular, and an outer surface at which the engage reference portion is positioned, an outer surface at which the joint section  
20 is positioned, and the side surface mutually differ.

3. The ink cartridge according to claim 2, wherein the outer surface at which the engage reference portion is positioned, the outer surface at which the joint section  
25 is positioned, and the side surface are arranged next to each other.

4. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein  
the ink cartridge is inserted into the inkjet printing  
apparatus from a predetermined insertion direction, and  
5 the side surface is present ahead of the insertion  
direction.

5. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein  
the ink cartridge is rotated about a predetermined  
10 rotation center axis in the inkjet printing apparatus, and  
the side surface is located at the most distant position  
from the rotation center axis.

6. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein  
15 the joint section comprises a sealing member through which  
a hollow needle connected to the ink supply route can be  
inserted.

7. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein  
20 the ink cartridge includes a plurality of the joint  
sections such that the ink joint sections are connected to  
the corresponding ink supply routes, respectively.

8. The ink cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the  
25 plurality of joint sections are aligned along the side surface.

9. The ink cartridge according to claim 7, further comprising a plurality of ink storing sections which are connected to the plurality of joint sections, respectively.

5        10. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising a reference portion engageable to an engage section provided in the inkjet head.

10       11. The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the distance between the reference portion and the engage reference portion is shorter than that between the side surface and the engage reference portion.

15       12. The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the reference portion is positioned in an outer surface at which the joint section is located.

20       13. The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the reference portion is a reference hole engageable with a reference axis provided in the inkjet head.

14. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising an absorber for absorbing ink from the inkjet head.

25       15. The ink cartridge according to claim 14, wherein the absorber absorbs ink ejected from the inkjet head

and fails to contribute to printing an image.

16. The ink cartridge according to claim 14, wherein  
the absorber absorbs ink ejected from the inkjet head  
5 in order to keep the state of the inkjet head in a good condition.

17. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further  
comprising an ink storage portion to be connected to the joint  
section and ink contained in the ink storage portion.